

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 – 11 of the original patent U.S. 6,465,910 are retained, with the exception that claim 1 is currently amended to correct a minor typographical error, and new claims 12 – 19 are added herewith, in accordance with the following listing:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A power system (8) for providing
2 uninterrupted electric power to a critical load (14),
3 comprising:
 - 4 a. a first power source (10) providing sufficient
5 power to supply the critical load (14);
 - 6 b. a second power source (18) comprising at least
7 one fuel cell power plant (18), the second power
8 source providing sufficient power to supply the
9 critical load (14) and adapted to be normally
10 substantially continuously connected and providing
11 power to, the critical load (14);
 - 12 c. a static switch (19) for selectively
13 connecting and disconnecting the first power source
14 (10) to the second power source (18) and [()]to[] the
15 critical load (14); and
 - 16 d. a switch controller (49, 45) for controlling
17 the state of the static switch (19) to connect the
18 first power source (10) with the critical load (14)
19 and the second power source (18) during normal
20 operation of the first power source (10) and to rapidly
21 disconnect the first power source (10) from the
22 critical load (14) and the second power source (18) if
23 and when operation of the first power source (10)
24 deviates beyond a limit from normal.

1 12. (new) A power system (8) for providing

2 uninterrupted electric power to a critical load (14),

3 comprising:

4 a. a first power source (10) providing sufficient
5 power to supply the critical load (14);

6 b. a second power source (18), the second power
7 source providing sufficient power to supply the
8 critical load (14) and adapted to be normally
9 substantially continuously connected and providing
10 power to, the critical load (14);

11 c. a static switch (19) for selectively
12 connecting and disconnecting the first power source
13 (10) to the second power source (18) and to the
14 critical load (14); and

15 d. a switch controller (49, 45) for controlling
16 the state of the static switch (19) to connect the
17 first power source (10) with the critical load (14)
18 and the second power source (18) during normal
19 operation of the first power source (10) and to rapidly
20 disconnect the first power source (10) from the
21 critical load (14) and the second power source (18) if
22 and when operation of the first power source (10)
23 deviates beyond a limit from normal.

1 13. (new) The power system (8) of claim 12 wherein the
2 switch controller (49, 45) additionally controls the
3 state of the static switch (19) to rapidly reconnect
4 the first power source (10) with the critical load (14)
5 and the second power source (18) when the first power
6 source (10) returns to normal operation.

1 14. (new) The power system (8) of claim 12 wherein the
2 static switch (19) is a solid-state device.

1 15. (new) The power system (8) of claim 14 wherein the
2 solid-state device is a thyristor (19).

1 16. (new) The power system (8) of claim 12 wherein the
2 first power source (10) is a utility power grid and
3 wherein the second power source (18) includes at least
4 one power conditioning system (PCS) for configuring
5 operation of the second power source (18) in a grid
6 connected mode or in a grid independent mode in
7 response to mode control signals (D1/401', D2/402'),
8 and including a site management controller (31)
9 connected intermediate the switch controller (49, 45)
10 and the power conditioning system (PCS) and responsive
11 to preliminary mode signals (M1/401, M2/402) from the
12 switch controller (49, 45) for providing the mode
13 control signals (D1/401', D2/402') to the second power
14 source power conditioning system (PCS), whereby the
15 second power source (18) rapidly transitions operation
16 between the grid connected and the grid independent
17 modes.

1 17. (new) The power system of claim 16 wherein the
2 rapid disconnection of the first power source (10) from
3 the critical load (14) and the second power source
4 (18), and the rapid transitioning of operation of the
5 second power source (18) between the grid connected
6 mode and the grid independent mode occurs within an
7 interval of about 4 milliseconds.

1 18. (new) The power system of claim 12 wherein the
2 rapid disconnection of the first power source (10) from
3 the critical load (14) and the second power source (18)
4 occurs within an interval of less than about 8.3
5 milliseconds.

1 19. (new) The power system of claim 18 wherein the
2 rapid disconnection of the first power source (10) from
3 the critical load (14) and the second power source (18)
4 occurs within an interval of about 4 milliseconds.